

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

**MINUTES**

February 24, 2000

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in The Founder's Room at The Siegel Center, 1200 West Broad Street in Richmond on Thursday, February 24, 2000 with the following members present:

Mr. Kirk T. Schroder, President  
Senator J. Brandon Bell, Vice President  
Mrs. Jennifer C. Byler  
Mrs. Audrey Davidson

Mrs. Susan L. Genovese  
Mrs. Susan T. Noble  
Mrs. Ruby W. Rogers  
Senator John Russell

Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, Acting  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Mr. Schroder called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

***INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE***

Mrs. Davidson gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

***RECOGNITION***

Mr. Schroder introduced new Board member, Mrs. Susan L. Genovese. Mrs. Genovese replaces Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr., whose term expired in January.

***WELCOME***

On behalf of Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Diane Simon, Associate Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. Jill Fox, Assistant Professor of the School of Education, extended greetings to the Board of Education.

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD***

Mrs. Byler made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 6 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried unanimously.

### ***APPROVAL OF AGENDA***

The following item was added to the agenda: *Consideration of School Based Index Proposal*. Mrs. Byler made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously.

### ***APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA***

The motion was made by Mrs. Byler, seconded by Mrs. Rogers, and carried unanimously for approval of the consent agenda.

- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
- Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Application for Literary Fund Loans
- Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund
- Final Review of Pre-NOIRA and NOIRA for the Proposed Revisions to Vocational Education Regulations (8 VAC 20-120)
- Resolution Concerning Board of Education Election of Officers

#### ***Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List***

The Department of Education's recommendation is that funding for two projects in the amount of \$3,800,000 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List.

#### **First Priority Waiting List**

COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke City	Grandin Court Elementary	\$1,900,000.00
Roanoke City	Preston Park Elementary	1,900,00.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,800,000.00</b>

#### ***Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans***

The Department of Education's recommendation for approval of two new applications in the amount of \$3,800,00 subject to review and approval by the Office of the Attorney General pursuant to Section 22.1-156, *Code of Virginia*, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke City	Grandin Court Elementary	\$1,900,000.00
Roanoke City	Preston Park Elementary	1,900,00.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,800,000.00</b>

**Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund**

The Department of Education's recommendation to approve the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of November 30, 1999 was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

**Final Review of Pre-NOIRA and NOIRA for the Proposed Revisions to Vocational Education Regulations (8 VAC 20-120)**

The Department of Education's recommendation that the Board authorize the Department to continue the procedure as specified in Virginia's Administrative Process (APA) Pre-NOIRA (Pre-Notice of Intended Regulatory Action) and NOIRA (Notice of Intended Regulatory Action) documents was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

**Resolution Concerning Board of Education Election of Officers**

The resolution concerning Board of Education election of officers for 2000-2002 was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda. The resolution reads as follows:

*Resolution Concerning Board of Education  
Election of Officers For 2000-2002*

*Resolved, that the election of officers for the Board of Education shall take place at the March 2000 meeting.*

*Adopted This 24<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2000*

**RESOLUTIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

- Resolutions of Recognition were presented to the following Recipients of the 1999 Milken Educator Award:

*Barbara Childress*, Principal, Echo Lake Elementary School, Henrico County  
*Gary Hinson*, science teacher, Narrows High School, Giles County  
*Deborah Hunley-Stukes*, Principal, Hugo A. Owens Middle School, Chesapeake  
*Ryan Sensenig*, science teacher, Harrisonburg High School, Harrisonburg  
*Barbara Stephenson*, first grade teacher, Greenville Elementary, Greenville County  
*Phil Bigler*, history teacher, Thomas Jefferson High School, Fairfax County  
*Tomeka Campbell*, third grade teacher, Park Avenue Elementary, Danville  
*Jennifer Hall*, second grade teacher, Bowling Green Primary School, Caroline County

- Resolutions of Recognition were presented to the following members of the Virginia team competing in the International Space Olympics in Korolev, Russia, October 12-24, 1999

*Kimberly Meuer*, Franklin County High School

*Erin Wiegand*, Giles High School

*Justin Hamilton*, New Horizons Governor's School for Science and Technology,  
Newport News

*Jiaying Yang*, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology,  
Fairfax

*Jennifer Fendrick*, Wakefield High School, Arlington

*Paul Otto*, Princess Anne High School, Virginia Beach

*Robert MacDermott*, Holston High School, Washington County

*Nikolas Keramidas*, Fairfax High School, Fairfax County

- Resolution of Recognition were presented to the following officers of the Virginia Association of Future Farmers of America:

*Leslie Funkhouser*, State President

*Scott Russell*, Appalachian Area Vice President

*Jason Carpenter*, Central Area Vice President

*Amanda Avery*, Eastern Area Vice President

*Matt Hickey*, Northern Area Vice President

*Lynn Herndon*, Southside Area Vice President

*Beth Stover*, State Secretary

*Bart Kite*, State Treasurer

*Bridget Sine*, State Reporter

*Dr. Glenn Anderson*, Specialist, Agricultural Education, Department of Education

Cindy Vosler, FFA State Executive Secretary, was introduced to the Board.

## ***ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS***

### ***Consideration of School Board Index Proposal***

Mr. Kirk Schroder, president of the Board, and Dr. Jo Lynne DeMary, acting superintendent of public instruction, announced a proposal to create a School Based Index, which will be included on the School Performance Report Card for each school in the Commonwealth. The index will include such factors as free and reduced lunch eligibility, school dropout rate, and teacher assessment of school needs. The School Based Index will not affect a school's accreditation status under the Standards of Accreditation, but instead will allow for the review of schools by index categories. Mr. Schroder and Dr. DeMary affirmed that it is important to make this information available to parents, policy makers, and communities.

Mrs. Byler made a motion to approve the School Based Index in concept. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Noble volunteered to chair the subcommittee that will develop the teacher survey instrument part of the index. Mr. Schroder will act as ex-officio and will appoint the committee. The teacher survey will be presented for first review at the Board's March meeting.

**Report from State Special Education Advisory Committee on Proposed Special Education Regulations**

Dr. Thomas Smith, Chair of the State Special Education Advisory Committee, presented this item. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state special education regulations require the State Special Education Advisory Committee, as part of its specified responsibilities, to "comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities." Virginia's special education regulations are currently undergoing revision. The proposed revisions have been published for public comment according to Administrative Process Act requirements. The Committee met three days in September, two days in November, and three days in January to review the proposed revisions and prepare the report.

The report contains (a) an overview of the process used in developing the report, (b) a table listing the number of decision types in each section of the proposed regulations, and (c) the decisions for recommendations made by the committee.

Senator Russell made a motion to adopt the Report from State Special Education Advisory Committee on Proposed Special Education Regulations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously.

**First Review of Proposal for Additional Diploma Option for Students with Disabilities**

On February 2, 2000, a press release was issued through which Board President Kirk Schroder and Acting Superintendent Jo Lynne DeMary announced a proposal for a Basic Diploma for certain students with disabilities. This Basic Diploma would provide an additional diploma option for students with disabilities under prescribed circumstances.

The Basic Diploma program features the following elements: (1) The student's IEP team elects to have the student participate in the SOL curriculum and tests in grades K-8; (2) The IEP team, at the end of the student's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, elects to have the student pursue the Basic Diploma based on eligibility criteria determined by the Board; (3) Upon electing to pursue the Basic Diploma, the student must: (a) successfully complete an English and a mathematics competency assessment as determined by the Board; (b) successfully be certified by the local school division as having completed occupational training to ensure employability; and (c) successfully complete other curriculum requirements as established by the Board and local school divisions; (4)

Students in the Basic Diploma program shall be counted toward a school's accreditation rating under the Standards of Accreditation.

Mrs. Davidson made a motion to adopt in concept a proposal for additional diploma option for students with disabilities. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Rogers volunteered to chair the subcommittee that will develop the proposal to be considered by the Board for inclusion in the proposed Standards of Accreditation. Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Noble will also serve on the subcommittee with Mrs. Rogers. The proposal will be presented for first review at the Board's March meeting.

**Presentation by the Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Concerning the Organization's Recent Publication, "Policy Positions: United We Stand"**

Mrs. Peggy McMaster, President of the Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (VASCD), and Dr. Joan Byrne, Executive Director of the VASCD gave a presentation on the organization's new publication entitled *Policy Position: United We Stand*. The purposes are (1) to have an involved membership in all areas of the state; (2) to offer professional development opportunities of high quality for Virginia's educators; (3) to influence policy development and implementation; and (4) to promote learning environments designed to meet diverse student needs. Mrs. McMaster presented honorary memberships to all Board members and Dr. DeMary. The Board received the report.

**Presentation of Report from Various Education Groups Concerning Issues Involving Multiple Criteria**

Dr. Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of York County Public Schools and President of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, presented this item. Dr. Staples spoke on behalf of eight educational organizations from the Commonwealth. They are: the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals, the Virginia Association of Secondary Principals, the Virginia PTA, the Virginia School Counselors Association, the Virginia Counselors Association, and the Virginia Retired Teachers Association. Mr. Staples said, "As a coalition, we wish to reinforce to you our earlier message that we support multiple criteria for school accreditation and student accountability."

Following are recommendations of the organizations listed above:

1. Ensure a long-term commitment to the refining of the accountability system by expanding the focus of the Test Advisory Committee to that of Accountability Advisory Committee.

2. Develop a schedule and a process to review and revise the Standards of Learning, beginning with history.
  - a. Committees charged with this task should include a majority of K-12 classroom teachers and representatives of other stakeholder groups represented on the Test Advisory Committee.
3. Revise the student accountability standards to include opportunities for repeat testing, a means to address inconsistent performance indicators, alternative tests as options for verified credits, and quarterly assessment of the SOL.
4. Implement additional diploma options.
5. Broaden school accountability standards to recognize other standardized student achievement measures.
  - a. Factor in remediation, making recovery rate a part of the accreditation formula.
  - b. Report school performance within a context of such factors as free and reduced lunch participation and attendance and/or dropout rates.

The president, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Staples for the report and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to work together with the Coalition.

**Update on the Status of Proposals to Revise the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.)**

In the spring of 1999, the Board announced its intent to amend the accrediting standards that were adopted in 1997. The Board conducted an initial series of public hearings to gauge public sentiment regarding the standards.

In addition, the Board invited officials from other states with similar accountability models as well as experts in the areas of standard setting and accountability to meet and discuss performance-based principals to gather input for potential revisions that will clarify the accountability requirements for schools. The Board, in these revisions, address: 1) the further refinement of student-level consequences related to the testing program and the impact of such changes on the school's overall accreditation rating; 2) plans to reward schools that consistently meet or exceed the requirements of the standards; 3) the consequences and incentives for those

schools that fail to meet the accountability requirements; and 4) the further refinement and clarification of language consistencies in the current regulations.

At a special meeting on October 3, 1999 the Board conducted the first review of the proposed revisions and authorized staff of the Department of Education to initiate procedures required by the Administrative Process Act to release the proposals for public comment. A 60-day comment period began on November 22, 1999 and ended on January 22, 2000. During the comment period, the Board held public hearings and received written comment from citizens and educators across the state. The comments from the public hearings were summarized, transmitted to members of the Board, and presented to the Hanger Commission in December 1999. Also during the comment period, staff of the Department and members of the Board made numerous presentations to educational organizations, civic groups, and local school boards and divisions explaining the proposed revisions and responding to questions.

The Board discussed exploring the use of creating different seals within the diploma structure that would be subject oriented. Mrs. Davidson volunteered to chair a committee to look at the concepts of adding seals in Technology, Science, Math, and Humanities. Mrs. Davidson will make a report on this matter at the March meeting.

The Board also agreed that it might be necessary to hold a special meeting in order to approve the changes in the proposed amendments to the Standards of Accreditation. The Board will set the date of this special meeting during the March meeting. It is anticipated that the final amendments to the Standards of Accreditation may be approved at a meeting in August 2000.

#### **Public Hearing on the Proposed Computer/Technology Standards of Learning by the end of Grade 12**

The Board of Education meeting recessed at 2:10 p.m. to hear comments from speakers attending the public hearing on the proposed Computer/Technology Standards of Learning.

After the speakers' comments, the Board suggested that the proposed Computer/Technology Standards be widely distributed and that the comment period be extended until May 2000.

#### **Final Review of Criteria for Local Character Education Program**

Mr. James Ashton, Office of Compensatory Education, presented this item. SB 817 passed by the 1999 General Assembly requires each local school board to establish a character education program and also requires the Board to establish criteria for character education programs. A workplan was developed and a workgroup formed to make recommendations to the Board.



At the January 6 Board meeting, Criteria # 3 was discussed. Mr. Ashton read the following statement as a possible substitution for Criteria # 3 that was suggested by one of the Board members: *Utilize positive role models irrespective of religious or political involvement, while avoiding indoctrination of any religion, political philosophy or belief.* There was no action taken on adding this language to the document.

After a brief discussion, Mrs. Rogers made a motion to pull out the reference of the footnote in Criteria #3 and move the footnote to follow Criteria #7. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Noble and carried unanimously. The document, as amended, is attached (Attachment A).

The statement should read as follows:

*See also: Guidelines Concerning Religious Activity in the Public Schools, adopted June 22, 1995, by the Board of Education for a more in-depth discussion of the constitutional rights and restrictions relating to prayer and other religious expression in the public schools, including the duties of school authorities relating to the constitutional freedoms of individual speech and religious expression and the relationship with the constitutional prohibition against establishing religion in the public schools.*

### ***PUBLIC COMMENT***

The following persons spoke during the public comment.:

Cata  
Mickey VanDerworker  
Dr. Jane Massey-Wilson

### ***DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES***

There was no discussion of current issues.

### ***ADJOURNMENT***

There being no further business, Mr. Schroder adjourned the meeting of the Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 3:20 p.m.

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President

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Secretary of the Board